



FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN SOCIETIES OF PLANT BIOLOGY

Minutes of the FESPB Council Meeting, held on Tuesday, June 29th h 17.15-18.30, by Zoom platform.

FESPB Executive and Council Members Present: Isabel Diaz- EC member, Christian Zorb - EC member, Laura De Gara - EC member, Janos Gyorgyey - EC member, Ismail Rurkan (Turkey), Bruce Osborne (Ireland), Nelson Saibo (Portugal), Martin Janda (Czech Republic, Fiorella Lo Schiavo (Italy), Jana Albrechtova - EC member, Christophe Robaglia - EC member (France), Kalliope Papadopoulou (Greece) Yaroslav Blume (Ukraine), Andrea Schubert - EC member, Katia Georgieva (Bulgaria), Vadim Demidchik (Belarus)

AGENDA

1. Introductions and approval of minutes of the 2018 FESPB Council Meeting (available on-line)
A round table of introductions was performed and the minutes of the 2016 FESPB Council Meeting were approved
2. Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from three Societies (Serbian, Finnica, Slovak and Slovene)
3. Welcome to new members of the Council.
The new members of the Council were welcomed. The Secretary General introduced the new members of the Executive Committee to the Council, thanking Christin Foyer, Heinz Rennenberg and Maria Dolores Rodriguez for the excellent work done during their period of activity as Secretary General, Treasurer and Chair of Publication Committee, respectively.
4. Update and presentation of plans for the forthcoming Congress in 2023 (Christophe Robaglia). Prof. Robaglia gave a brief update of the organization of the 2023 Congress in Marseille, underlining the aspects that will characterize the congress.
5. Reports of Members of the Executive Committee

- i. President (Andrea Schubert) Prof. Schubert gave some information on the PBE 2021 Congress, giving the number of the registered participants and presented posters.
- ii. Secretary General (Laura De Gara)

Prof. De Gara informed the Delegates that the Swiss Society of Plant Biology joined the Federation, while SEB – Society of Experimental Botany (UK) resigned its affiliation. The Association of Applied Biology (UK) asked information on the aims of the Federation and the advantages given by the affiliation and decided to discuss with its board in the following assembly (half of July), to be affiliated to the FESPB. She described the activities of the EC occurred in the past years (organization of the election of the new EC members – Treasurer, Chair of the Awards Committee and Chair of Publication, new website, selection of candidates for short term mobility before pandemic event).
- iii. Treasurer (Christian Zörb)

Professor Zörb gave a short presentation of FESPB budget including income and outgoings over the reporting period. He underlined that due to the pandemic situation the Federation had less activities than previously. Prof. Bruce Osborn remembered the necessity to organize an audit before the end of the year and offered his collaboration to this task. Prof. Fenoll, who was also involved in the previous audit, also gave her availability.
- iv. Chair, Grants Committee (Jana Albrechtová)

Prof. Albrechtová gave a short presentation concerning the activities of the FESPB Grants over the reporting period. She underlined that, for the constitution of the evaluation committee, all the national representatives were consulted. Due to the different cost of the Congress, and to the decision taken in the previous Council meeting to compensate the absence of the poster winners (see the minutes of 2018 June 19 Council meetings), the EC decided to increase the number of the grants. 69 students were selected for the “travel” grants. They were representatives of all the Countries where an affiliated Scientific Society is present.
- v. Chair Awards Committee (Maria Isabel Diaz Rodriguez)

Prof. Rodriguez gave a short presentation concerning the activities of the FESPB Awards over the reporting period. The young research FESPB Awards have been selected by an evaluation committee selected with the help of all the National Delegates of Societies that did not present any candidates. The selection of the two winners was made among 7 excellent candidates. In relation to the selection of the best posters, the evaluation was not finished yet, again the evaluation committee was made in collaboration with the National Delegates.
- vi. Chair, Publications Committee (and Web Media) (Janos Györgyey)

Prof. Györgyey gave a short presentation on the activities of the Publications Committee related to the Facebook page that reached almost 3500 followers, and reported the statistics of the past months. He informed that another more interactive

virtual space was recently opened on Facebook:“FESPB info-X-change”. This new web media allows all the participants to exchange information without the need of the administrator.

6. Future FESPB activities

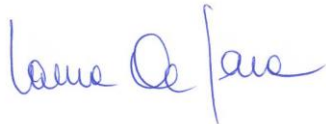
Prof. De Gara informed that the meeting with the Editors of the affiliated Journals will be held on the 1st of July) and asked for suggestions for activities and initiatives that could involve the journals. She also reminded to disseminate information on the next deadline for presenting candidacies for short-term mobility (next November).

7. Items for the General Assembly (AGM)

The Council agreed that a General assembly was not feasible during an on line congress and decided that during the closing ceremony the President, incoming President and Secretary General will give the useful information to all the participants still present.

8. Any other Business

The Secretary General remembered that a bid for the 2025 Congress was already presented by the Hungarian Society of Plant Science and informed that a meeting with EPSO will be organized for discussing the possibility to co-organize together the next congresses.



Prof. Laura De Gara, FESPB Secretary General, 29th of June 2021